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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 60, no. 4)

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# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 60

NOVEMBER, 1984

NO. 4



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER, 1984, Anne L. Stamm .....	51
THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL FALL MEETING .....	57
THE TREASURER'S REPORT, Harriet Korfhage .....	60
FIELD NOTES .....	62
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	64
INDEX TO VOLUMES 57-60, 1981-1984, Blaine R. Ferrell .....	66

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$6.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

Editor ..... B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,  
Bowling Green 42101

Assistant Editor ..... Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green

### Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

### OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., for the excellent photograph of Sabine's Gull (see the Field Note).

## THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1984

ANNE L. STAMM

It was rather a strange summer weatherwise. The month of June was warmer than normal and July was cooler than usual. June was dry, hot and humid throughout the state. In the Louisville area less than an inch of rain fell during the month and tied a record as the second driest June. June's drought continued into July until July 4 when a heavy thunderstorm dumped a total of 5.33 inches of rain in the Louisville area which surpassed the 3.76 inches normal for the entire month. Additional rains brought the month's total to almost seven inches which was quite a contrast from the month of June. The rainfall in early July brought cooler temperatures and on July 8 the mercury hit record lows of 50 degrees in Lexington, Louisville and the northern half of the state. Record lows were also set at Covington on July 19. Cold fronts on July 8 and 19 triggered the southward movement of small numbers of shorebirds.

The summer reports contained an increasing number and encouraging amount of data on the breeding activities of the birds in Kentucky. Observers apparently spent more time in the field this period than in most summers. A new nesting colony of Cattle Egrets was found as well as colonies of Least Terns. New Bank and Barn Swallow colonies were reported. A nest of Common Ravens added much interest to the season's report. Some species showed increases and some decreases. Below are listed the interesting records for the summer season of 1984.

*Hérons* — Great Blue Herons were reported during June in Boone and Hopkins Counties, with a high of seven birds on June 15 at Goose Pond in the latter County (LMC, JH, respectively); wanderers were present during July at East Bend (LMC), Louisville (S) and Somerset (JEL). Post-breeding Great Egrets usually appear at the Falls of the Ohio in late summer, but one was present on June 6 and a high of seven were there on July 27 (LR); several remained throughout July (S); also a single bird was seen over Lake Pewee, June 8 (JH). A single Snowy Egret was present at the Falls of the Ohio on July 8 (JEL, LR) and it remained throughout July (LR, m.ob.). An adult Little Blue Heron was seen at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on July 21 (DN, LR); an immature was at the Falls of the Ohio on July 28 (BN, with S. Washburn) and still there July 31 (DN). Approximately 20 Cattle Egrets were seen "roosting in willows along the Mississippi River in western Fulton County" on June 17. Some birds appeared to be tugging at twigs as if interested in nesting (BPP, BN). A Cattle Egret rookery in a stand of black willows at Island No. 9, Fulton County, containing 55 active nests with young was found during the first three days of August by personnel of the Kentucky Nongame Wildlife Program in cooperation with the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission (SAE, Brian Anderson, M. Evans, Richard Hannan, Lynda Andrews and Ron Cicerello). This rookery was in the same location as were the 20 birds seen on June 17 and is the first Cattle Egret rookery reported in Kentucky. (A single nest of Cattle Egrets had been found in 1981 in a Black-crowned Night Heronry by Richard Lowe.) Green-backed Herons were scarce in some areas, particularly in Owensboro (RI) and along some streams in the Louisville parks (S); present throughout the

period at East Bend, Petersburg, and various ponds in Boone County (LMc); 20 recorded on 10 June counts in Hopkins County (JH). The only reports of Black-crowned Night Herons came from the Falls of the Ohio where on 13 July 143 adults and 68 immatures had been counted (LR), but by July 31 only about 40 could be seen (S, FS, LR). At least four nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in Lexington (MF); three birds present at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, June 19, may have been breeding birds (JH). Single adults were at the following locations: along the shore of Shippingport Island, June 27 (LR), the Falls of the Ohio, July 8 (JEL), along a wooded edge of a bike trail near Lexington Road, Louisville, July 15 (WB); an immature and one adult on South Fork Creek, Glasgow, July 9 (WM); and an immature at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County, July 9 (KC).

*Waterfowl*—A pair of Canada Geese nested at East Bend, Boone County, and produced four young (LMc). Three broods of Wood Ducks were raised at Petersburg and one at East Bend (LMc). The Corps of Engineers placed Wood Duck nest boxes around Rough River Lake and as a result of the project some 35 Wood Ducks were seen at various parts of the lake (KC).

*Raptors*—Two nests of Turkey Vultures were found in Madison County: one nest fledged two birds and one fledged one. (Wm. Lynch *vide* GR); a nest with two eggs was at Bald Point, Boone County, May 5 (LMc); a group of 17 at Petersburg, June 4 (LMc); and a flock of seven in Henry County, June 3 (S, FS). A few Osprey sightings were of interest: singles at Skaggs Creek, Barren River Reservoir, near Brown's Ford in Allen County, June 9, 25 and July 23 (WM). Nesting of the Mississippi Kite was indicated at BWMA when two groups of four birds each, one with two recently-fledged immatures were seen during the survey of the Mississippi River on August 1 to 3 (SAE et al.). Although the hawk population appeared to be down in Owensboro, a Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed during the period (RI); one south of Mt. Victory, Pulaski County, June 23 (BPB). Single Cooper's Hawks were sighted at the following locations: an immature at Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (hereafter CKWMA), Madison County, July 20 (GR), at Canton, Trigg County, June 12 (CP), and in Henry County, June 3 (FS, S). A pair of Broad-winged Hawks at Bedford on June 29 (JY) and one at Pulaski County Park, July 1 (JEL) were probably breeding birds. A Red-tailed Hawk nest at CKWMA fledged two young (GR); and the species continued to maintain a stable population in northern Kentucky (LMc). Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be scarce, but it was encouraging that four birds were observed at three locations in Hopkins County (JH). Five nests of American Kestrels were unsuccessful at CKWMA due to predation (Chris Kellner *vide* GR); good numbers at Fort Wright (EG).

*Bobwhite through Rails*—The population of Bobwhites was up this year in the Owensboro area (RI), but down slightly on the Breeding Bird Survey in Shelby and Henry Counties (S); a pair with five young crossed a Louisville yard (no date, KC). A nest of King Rails containing 13 eggs was found in Fulton County on May 27 (BPB and J. Getgood), but the adults which were present in May could not be located on June 17 and the empty nest was collected (BPB, BN). The nest of the King Rail is note-

worthy because breeding data of this species have not been reported since the 1950's.

*Shorebirds*—Fall migrants began appearing in small numbers in early July and increased slightly by the end of the month. A Lesser Golden Plover appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on July 17 (LR) and a few Semipalmated Plovers were present at Mayfair Basins on July 20 (DN). Two nests of Killdeer were found at Burlington and each fledged four young (LMc); a nest with two young at Bedford (JY). A single Lesser Yellow-legs was present at the Falls of the Ohio on July 8 and tied the 1975 record (JEl, LR). A Solitary Sandpiper was fairly early at Pond River, July 7 (JH) and others did not appear in various places in Louisville until July 19-31 (LR, DN) and four sighted near Frazer, Wayne County, July 26 (JEl). An early migrant was the Willet at Louisville on July 9 (DN, LR, with J. R. Noonan). The Ruddy Turnstone at the Falls of the Ohio on June 6 was most likely a late spring migrant (LR). A Sanderling was present at the latter location on July 25 (BPB) and 30 (BN). Single Western Sandpipers were observed at Mayfair Basins, July 20 and 27 (DN) and at the Falls of the Ohio, July 31 (S, FS). A single Pectoral Sandpiper on a small pond in Spencer County, July 17 was fairly early (S); four were reported at Mayfair Basins on July 20 (DN), but 16 were present at the Falls of the Ohio on July 31 (S, FS). Only small numbers of Least Sandpipers had returned to Louisville by July 31 (m. ob.).

*Gulls, Terns*—A first-year Herring Gull was present at the Falls of the Ohio from late May through July; a second-year bird was also observed there the first week of July; and a first-year bird was at Smithland Dam, Livingston County, June 18 (BPB). A few Ring-billed Gulls were also present at the Falls of the Ohio in July; a second-year bird was there from late May through early July and a first-year bird arrived in early July, but disappeared (BPB); one, not aged, was there on July 9 (DN, LR) and also present on July 31 (S, FS); and 40 at Kentucky Dam, June 17 (BPB, BN). Two Laughing Gulls (sub-adults) at the Falls, June 7, were unexpected (BPB, with J. Lewis). A Caspian Tern was present at Louisville on July 9 and 24 (DN, LR). Two Least Terns were observed at the pumping station in the Hickman Bottoms where they were catching "minnows and carrying them off towards a large sandbar on the Mississippi River," June 17 (BPB, BN). An interesting find was the 215 Least Terns, including five young of the year, as well as finding three definite and three suspected nesting colonies, the largest being at Kentucky Point Bar in Fulton County; 40 nests with eggs were counted during the first three days of August (SAE, et al.).

*Cuckoos through Woodpeckers*—The only report of the Black-billed Cuckoo was at Fort Wright where its notes were heard throughout the period (EG). Comments on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo varied from scarce in northern Kentucky to normal numbers in the southwestern part of the state. The only report of a Barn Owl was of one roosting in a barn at Stanley during May and June (RI). A Screech Owl nest at CKWMA produced two young (GR). Horned Owls were in greater numbers than usual at Bedford, Trimble County (JY). The population of Common Nighthawks seemed to be stable at Covington (LMc), but numbers were down in Louisville (S). Seven Chuck-will's-widows were heard on the Shiloh, Calloway

County BBS, June 3 and three on the Canton, Trigg County survey, June 12 (CP); fewer were heard in the Rough River area this season (KC). A nest of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fledged two young in Madison County (GR) and a nest was discovered in Ballard County, but no follow up was made (DS); fair numbers were seen at the Falls of the Rough, but no nests were found (KC); only one bird was sighted on the 10 counts made in June in Hopkins County (JH). Woodpecker species, with the exception of the Northern Flicker, seemed to be in lower numbers than normal at Burlington (LMc). Red-headed Woodpeckers nested successfully at Bedford (JY) and at the Falls of the Rough (KC). Two young were fledged from the nest of a Pileated Woodpecker at Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve (LMc) and numbers remained constant at Bedford (JY).

*Flycatchers through Swallows* — Wood Pewees showed some increase in Hopkins County when 65 birds were recorded on 10 counts during the month of June as compared to 49 last year (JH). Fifteen Acadian Flycatchers were present at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, June 19 (JH). Single Willow Flycatchers were recorded at Petersburg and at Hamilton, Boone County, June 23 (LMc). Three Least Flycatchers were heard singing at the summit of Big Black Mountain, Harlan County, June 24 (BPB and R. Cassell). Four nests of the Eastern Phoebe were found in Meade County (BN). A good colony of Purple Martins was noted in Ballard County, with approximately 75 pairs nesting there (S, DS, FS). Fall migration of the Purple Martins began rather early with some 2000 birds at Shippingport Island on July 16 and about 4000 there the following day and less than 1000 there on July 20 (DN with J. R. Noonan); also the several thousand that congregated at the Falls of the Ohio in late July (no date) may have been part of the above group (BPB); and 70 were at Pulaski County Park, July 26 (JEL). A noteworthy find was the eight Tree Swallow nests in dead tree snags in a strip mine pit in Ohio County, June 15 (BF); no nests were found at Long Run County Park this year (S). A colony of 20 pairs of Bank Swallows was found in a gravel pit in Burlington and smaller colonies were at abandoned pits (LMc); a large colony in a dirt bank along the Mississippi River, just south of Hickman (Brian Anderson et al. *vide* SAE); a nesting colony at the north end of Island No. 8 (SAE et al.); and a colony at Cumberland Island on the Ohio River (Frank Boyd (USFWS) *vide* SAE). Fewer Rough-winged Swallows nested in Henry and Meade Counties as compared with 1983 (S, BN, respectively). Cliff Swallow nests were down in numbers from last year at Barren River Reservoir — 330 in 1983 and 208 in 1984. This decrease may have been due in part to the heavy rains in May raising the water levels and thus washing away some of the nests on the sides of the bridge (WM). Barn Swallows were scarce at Owensboro (RI).

*Ravens* — A nest with six young *Common Ravens* discovered in Letcher County during the period was an extraordinary find. The nest was first discovered by John MacGregor and later checked with Sherri Evans (JMc).

*Wrens through Shrikes* — There were mixed reports on the status of the Carolina Wren: near normal numbers in Boone County (LMc); not doing well in Trigg and Hopkins Counties (CP, JH); but successful nestings at two Louisville locations and at Burlington (KC, S, LMc). Bewick's Wrens are still scarce, but nest building was observed at Leitchfield (A.

Wilson *vide* KC); a nest with three eggs at Elizabethtown, later abandoned (GE); and single birds noted on the Canton BBS in Trigg County, June 12 (CP) and on the Merrimac BBS in northern Taylor County, June 3 (BPB and D. Ebel). Six nests of House Wrens were reported at the Western Kentucky University Farm, Bowling Green (HS); also heard on the Greenville BBS in Muhlenberg County, where previously it had not been recorded (R. Head *vide* CP). Eastern Bluebird numbers were not up to normal levels at Murray and Crestwood, although nest boxes were provided at the latter location (CP, HA, respectively), but were on the increase in Daviess (RI) and Trimble Counties (JY). Gray Catbirds continued to occur in low numbers in some Louisville locations (S) and numbers were "still down" for the Mockingbird at Owensboro (RI). Two nests of Cedar Waxwings were found in Bowling Green (BF); although no nests were found at Burlington and Pulaski County Park, small groups were present throughout the period (LMc, JEL, respectively); others nested on Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville, Jefferson County (BPB) and several young fledglings were seen near Westport, Oldham County, July 22 (BBC). Three Loggerhead Shrikes were noted in Hopkins County on June 11 (JH) and a pair was present near Union during the period (LMc).

*Vireos through Warblers* — In a distribution study made in Hopkins County, the population of White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos remained about the same as the previous year, while the Red-eyed Vireo increased in numbers (JH). A Blue-winged Warbler was noted at Lock Mary, Hopkins County, June 5, where the species is very rare in summer (JH); present throughout June at Big Bone State Park (LMc). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was heard and seen on the northwest slope of Pine Mountain in Leslie County (no date — BPB, with R. Cassell and J. MacGregor). A Pine Warbler with young was seen at the Boy Scout Reservation, Marshall County, June 15 (J. Weatherly *vide* CP); two pairs were noted at Bedford, July 2 (JY). Single Northern Parula Warblers were present at two locations in Hopkins County during June (JH). Two male American Redstarts were seen at Bedford on July 2 (JY). Several Prothonotary Warblers were nesting in a swampy area along with Tree Swallows in Ohio County, June 15 (BF); present at East Bend during the period (LMc). Worm-eating Warblers were holding a small but stable population in Boone County (LMc). A Swainson's Warbler was heard at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, June 19 (JH). An interesting record was that of an Ovenbird singing along Barker's Hill Road in Christian County, June 8 (CP). There seemed to be a small but stable population of Ovenbirds and Louisiana Waterthrushes at Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve (LMc). June surveys in 1983 and 1984 in Hopkins County showed a 56% increase in Kentucky Warblers (JH). Common Yellowthroats were up in the Owensboro area (RI); few recorded along streams in Shelby and Henry Counties during early June (S, FS); a nest at Eubank contained two eggs of the host and two of the Brown-headed Cowbird (JEL).

*Cardinals through Finches* — Several Cardinals were seen feeding young Brown-headed Cowbirds in the Louisville area (KC). Blue Grosbeaks continued to expand eastward: five nests were found at CKWMA; one nest fledged three young, two fledged one young, two nests were lost to predators and adults with young were believed to be another pair (GR). A nest of Indigo Buntings containing three host eggs and one Brown-headed Cow-



bird egg was found at Eubank, July 19 and another there on July 30 contained three host eggs (JEL). A Bachman's Sparrow was found on the Pleasureville BBS in Henry County, June 3 (S, FS). A Lark Sparrow was heard in Shelby County, June 3 on a BBS (S, FS). Two Savannah Sparrows were heard singing in northeastern Jefferson County on July 18-21 and may have represented a first county summer record for that species (BBC). An estimated 10 breeding pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows and 15 pairs of Henslow's Sparrows were present during the period at CKWMA (GR). Orchard Orioles appeared to be in low numbers locally (S), but a nest was found at CKWMA (GR) and at the Falls of the Rough (KC); also a singing male on the Pleasureville BBS, June 3 (S). House Finches have become a regular breeding bird in Kentucky: young noted at Owensboro (RI), east Louisville (two locations — KC, S, FS), and two nests in south Louisville, with four young fledged in one, the other nest was abandoned (WJ).

*Contributors* — Helen Abell (HA), William Bauer (WB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore, (JEL), Sherri Evans (SAE), George Elliott (GE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Michael Flynn (MF), E. Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Lee McNeely (LMc), Wayne Mason (WM), John MacGregor (JMc), Barry Nichols (BN), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Herbert Shadowen (HS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), John Young (JY). Other abbreviations — Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (BWMA), Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (CKWMA), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Beckham Bird Club (BBC).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### FALL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 28-30, 1984

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1984 Fall Meeting at Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky on September 28-30. President Pierre Allaire called the Friday evening session to order. After welcoming everyone, he introduced the Vice-president, Fred Busroe, who welcomed K.O.S. to the Morehead University campus and introduced the two speakers. Sherri Evans of the Nongame Wildlife Program, Frankfort, Kentucky, presented the current status of Kentucky's Breeding Bird Atlas, enlisted volunteers to help with the atlas and answered questions about the five-year survey for the atlas. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., presented information about birding at the TVA Paradise Steam Plant on the Green River in Muhlenberg County, Ky.

Bert Powell told K.O.S. members about the illness of Sister Casimir Czuries and had a card for the group to sign.

The Saturday morning field trip was announced. A social hour followed the meeting.

Saturday morning, Fred Busroe and Lew Kornman led a field trip to the Minor Clark fish hatchery below Cave Run Dam. The morning was foggy and quite cool, but became sunny in the late morning. Shorebirds, herons and swallows were found at the ponds, osprey and eagles overhead and warblers in the trees. A Double-crested Cormorant was observed just above the dam.

At 2:30 P.M. Brian Anderson of the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission presented a program on the Bald Eagle Survey at the Ballard Wildlife Management Area: numbers of birds, suitable habitat and roosting sites. Terry Siemsen of the Corps of Engineers explained work on the Ohio River that is being considered, and the Corp's interest in the Bald Eagles in the area.

The Board of Directors met at 4:00 P.M. in the East Room of the Student Center, Morehead State University.

The banquet buffet was held in the Red Room of the Student Center. Dr. Madison Pryor, Professor at Morehead State University, was the banquet speaker. He shared his views of the Antarctic Continent and gave an excellent presentation of the penguins and other birds of the Antarctic. Blaine Ferrell led the group in compiling the day's bird lists — a total of 93 species. President Allaire announced several suggestions from the Board of Directors: 1). to put an announcement in *The Kentucky Warbler* that members who are moving should inform the editor, 2). to ask the general membership to make suggestions during the next year regarding how much to increase the dues — to be voted on at the Spring Meeting.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Mammoth Cave National Park, April 19, 20 and 21.

Jim Williams of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers: Blaine Ferrell — President, Fred Busroe — Vice-president,

Lee McNeely—Recording Secretary, Harriet Korfhage—Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Lydia Greenwell and Dr. Wendell Kingsolver—Councillors. The slate was accepted by acclamation. The group gave a vote of appreciation to Fred Busroe for his planning of this meeting and to the outgoing officers: Pierre Allaire, Virginia Kingsolver and Jim Williams. The meeting adjourned. Fred Busroe announced plans for the Sunday morning field trips. Total registrations for the meeting were 62. After adding Sunday's list of birds to Saturday's, the total species list for the meeting was 97.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Kingsolver  
Recording Secretary

**BIRDS REPORTED ON FIELD TRIPS AT THE  
FALL MEETING IN THE VICINITY OF  
THE MINOR E. CLARK FISH HATCHERY  
September 28-30, 1984**

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon\*, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Purple Martin\*, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit\*, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak and House Sparrow. Those species with an asterisk were observed on Sunday. — Total species: 97.

**ATTENDANCE AT THE K.O.S. 1984 FALL MEETING  
AT MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY**

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

CLEARFIELD: Foley Partin

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes

BURLINGTON: Lee McNeely, Tom Stephens

FRANKFORT: Lynda Andrews, Brian Anderson, Marc Evans, Sherri Evans

HAZARD: Heather Ladan, Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Sandlin, Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Sladek, Dr. Donnie Spencer

JACKSON: Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire

LEXINGTON: Brad Andres, Robert Morris, Glenn Raleigh, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Robert Brown, Beth Douthitt, Katherine Fulkerson, Judi Jones, Harriet Korfhage, Margaret Korfhage, Mildred Neblett, Barry Nichols, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stamm, Donald Summerfield

MACEO: A. L. Powell

MOREHEAD: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Busroe, Katie Busroe, Carolyn Brown, Bob Day, Stephen Hale, Lewis Kornman, Sarah McClellan, Cathy Schwab, Tim Sloane, George Young

MURRAY: Dr. Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Mary L. Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, William Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson

WEST LIBERTY: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Elam, Helen Wells

**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Report of the Treasurer**  
**For the Fiscal Year 1983-1984**

**GENERAL FUND**

Cash Balance as of September 23, 1983 ..... \$ 839.51

**Receipts**

Membership Dues .....	\$2,220.00	
Gift .....	250.00	
Interest — Endowment Fund .....	397.85	
Interest — Gordon Wilson Fund .....	145.79	
Meetings — 1983 .....	558.00	
Fall Meeting — 1984 .....	228.50	
Sale of Warblers, Check Lists, etc. ....	95.50	\$3,895.64
		<hr/>
		\$4,735.15

**Disbursements**

Printing: <i>Kentucky Warbler</i> .....	\$1,749.79	
Envelopes .....	137.75	
Check Lists .....	242.00	
Postage .....	215.29	
Meeting Expenses .....	503.10	
Treasurer's Expenses .....	66.34	
Safety Deposit Box Rental Fee .....	20.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	40.35	
Due Beckham Bird Club .....	42.00	
Bank Charges .....	10.34	
Transfer of Life Membership to Endowment Fund .....	225.00	
Transfer of Interest to Gordon Wilson Fund .....	145.79	\$3,397.75
		<hr/>
Cash Balance — First National Bank as of September 25, 1984 .....		\$1,337.40
		<hr/>

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance in Savings Account, Future Federal, as of September 25, 1983 .....	\$1,311.57
Certificates of Deposit; (3) .....	3,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,811.57

**Receipts**

Transfer of Life Memberships .....	\$ 225.00	
Interest on Certificates of Deposit .....	397.85	
Interest on Savings Account .....	42.59	\$ 665.44
		<hr/>
		\$5,477.01

**Disbursements**

Transfer to General Fund .....	\$ 397.85
Balance in Fund as of September 25, 1984 .....	\$5,079.16
Certificates of Deposit; (4) .....	\$4,500.00
Balance in Savings Account .....	579.16

**GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY**

Balance in Savings Account as of September 23, 1983 .....	\$ 787.33
Certificates of Deposit (2) at Great Financial Federal .....	\$2,000.00
	\$2,787.33

**Receipts**

Interest on Certificates of Deposit .....	\$ 145.79	
Interest on Savings Account .....	39.27	185.06
		\$2,972.39
Certificates of Deposit (2) .....	\$2,000.00	
Balance in Savings Account .....	972.39	
TOTAL .....	\$2,972.39	

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**September 25, 1984**  
**Assets**

Cash — General Fund .....	\$1,337.40
Endowment Fund .....	5,079.16
Gordon Wilson Fund .....	2,972.39
TOTAL .....	\$9,388.95
NET WORTH .....	\$9,388.95

Harriet Korfhage, Treasurer

## FIELD NOTES

### FIRST REPORT OF THE SABINE'S GULL IN KENTUCKY

On the morning of 9 September 1984, the authors independently discovered an immature Sabine's Gull (*Larus sabini*) at the Falls of the Ohio, Kentucky-Indiana. Andres first saw the bird at approximately 8:30 a.m. as it perched on the fossil shelf that extends southwest from the Indiana bank, and then as it fed and rested along the pools of water of the outer fossil shelf. Palmer-Ball first observed the bird about an hour later and immediately initiated the local bird alert.

Subsequent to the September 9 sightings, it was discovered that the Sabine's Gull had been observed at the Falls on the afternoon of September 8 by Garrett Adams who had not known the bird's identity. His detailed description of the bird left no doubt that he had indeed seen it on the previous afternoon.

Over the next three days, many birders were fortunate enough to observe the Sabine's Gull as it foraged and rested at various locations throughout the Falls of the Ohio area, including Indiana portions of the Falls. The bird remained in the vicinity until the evening of September 11 when it was last seen about 6:30 p.m. The Sabine's Gull was very tame and repeatedly allowed close approach. On the afternoon of September 11 it ate about 20 small, live minnows that were tossed to it from as close as 15 feet by several local birders.

In flight, the species' diagnostic, as well as strikingly beautiful, wing pattern of black, white and gray-brown triangles was unmistakable. At rest the "scaley" appearance produced by the light-edged back feathers and upper wing coverts identified the gull as a 1st-year bird (see cover photo of this issue). In addition, it had a slightly forked tail with sub-terminal black band and only a narrow whitish edge to the tips of the retrices. The gray-brown of the back continued up the nape onto the crown and along the sides of the throat and upper breast. The forehead was white, and the bill was relatively short and slim and entirely black. The eye was dark and the legs and feet were grayish with a slight tinge of olive and blue in varying lights. The bird was relatively small, being only slightly larger than a Common Tern that perched nearby on several occasions.

This is the first record of the Sabine's Gull for Kentucky and the first record away from Lake Michigan for Indiana. Photographs of the bird were obtained on September 9 and 11.

Interestingly, on the afternoon of September 30, Palmer-Ball observed a Sabine's Gull at the Falls of the Ohio. Although the gull was observed at some distance, the distinctive wing pattern was immediately evident. In fact, the bird was observed only in flight as it moved with strong wingbeats (presumably migrating) down the river channel southwest of the fossil beds. Upon reaching the lower dam structure, it gained altitude and passed over it, heading straight downstream. If a different individual, this gull probably passed by the Falls and continued down the river, choosing to rest somewhere else.

It was originally presumed that this was a different bird because

there were no sightings of Sabine's Gull reported during the intervening three-week period. However, on the afternoon of 5 October 1984 Barry Nichols reported a first-year Sabine's Gull resting at the Falls of the Ohio with a small group of Ring-billed Gulls. This individual flew around briefly, then disappeared with the Ring-bills when something scared them. It was not observed later that afternoon, nor over the next few days.

It remains unclear how many Sabine's Gulls were actually observed at the Falls of the Ohio, but the occurrences of one, two or even three individuals are possible. It also remains to be seen whether or not these sightings were part of a regionwide flight for the species during the fall of 1984. — BRAD ANDRES, 506 Springhill Drive, Lexington and BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville.

### RUNT EGG IN THE CARDINAL

Runt egg in the Cardinal. — Unusually small or runt eggs are extremely rare, with very few reports on the occurrence of such eggs in nature. Among the few species or groups in which runt eggs have been reported are the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), gulls (*Larus spp.*), House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and several woodpeckers (*Picidae*) (Koenig, Wilson Bull. 92:169-176, 1980). In each of these the incidence of runt eggs is extremely low, ranging from 0.02% in gulls to 0.6% in the Canada Goose. In one exceptional species, the Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), the percentage of runt eggs has been reported to be 4.32% (Koenig, 1980). On 22 July 1983 I found a runt egg in a Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) nest located in the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, 11 miles SSE of Richmond, Madison County. The nest also contained two normal eggs. The normal eggs subsequently hatched on 2 August and the young fledged on 14 August. The runt egg measured 14.33 x 12.86 mm as compared with 25.3 x 18.2 mm and 21.8 x 16.8 mm given by Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, 1968) as the average and smallest measurements, respectively, for Cardinal eggs. The egg showed no evidence of embryonic development and contained no yolk. The absence of yolk has also been noted in the runt eggs of other species (Romanoff and Romanoff, The Avian Egg, Wiley and Sons, New York, 1949). During 1982 and 1983 I examined a total of 33 Cardinal nests containing 86 eggs and the runt egg just described was the only one found. Further, I could find no other reports in the literature of runt eggs in Cardinals.

Little is known about runt eggs. Physiologically, such eggs are apparently produced by temporary disturbances, accidents, or infections in the oviduct (Romanoff and Romanoff, 1949). Very few are thought to be the result of permanent abnormalities (Pearl and Curtis, J. Agric. Res. 6:977-1042, 1916). The only species with a fairly high incidence of runt eggs appears to be the Acorn Woodpecker. Koenig (1980) indicated that this high incidence of runt eggs was associated with the communal nesting habits of these woodpeckers. That is, as females attempt to maneuver within the nest cavities they may come in contact with each other or the walls of the cavity. The increased levels of disturbance caused by such physical contact may subsequently result in the production of runt eggs. — Gary Ritchison, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475.



## NEWS AND VIEWS

### KENTUCKY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone having an interest in Kentucky's birdlife is invited to participate in one of the most significant ornithological studies ever undertaken in the state — the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas (KBBA) project. The purpose of the project is to map the current distribution of every species of bird which breeds in the state during a five year period. This information is urgently needed by wildlife agencies in order to make important decisions concerning our wildlife resources, and will be useful to resource planners, researchers, students and others.

The KBBA project is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Nongame Wildlife Program in cooperation with the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Similar projects are underway in over 20 states and several Canadian provinces.

The KBBA will involve five years of field work carried out largely by volunteers, and is scheduled to begin in spring of 1985. Because a project of this magnitude must rely on volunteers with all degrees of experience and expertise, volunteers will receive training in how to conduct field surveys as well as in how to identify birds and interpret their behavior.

Below is a list of project coordinators. Each region has a coordinator who will oversee all atlas work in that region. Anyone interested in participating in the KBBA should send their name, address and phone number to the coordinator for the region they wish to work in; if that region presently lacks a coordinator, this information can be sent to a state coordinator. Volunteers will receive additional information about the project and be assigned an atlas block to survey.

Come join the thousands of atlasers trekking through the field and forest across the continent. The Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas will be a huge success if everyone interested in Kentucky's birds gets involved.

### PROJECT COORDINATORS

#### State Coordinators

Sherri A. Evans  
Nongame Wildlife Program (Atlas Headquarters)  
Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
#1 Game Farm Rd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.  
8207 Old Westport Rd.  
Louisville, KY 40222

#### Regional Coordinators

- 1 Dr. Clell Peterson, 901 N. 18th, Murray, KY 42701
- 2 COORDINATOR NEEDED

- 3 Dr. Blaine R. Ferrell, Biol. Dept., Western Ky. Univ., Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Wayne M. Mason, 925 Park St., Bowling Green, KY 42101
- 4 Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Westport Rd., Louisville, KY 40222
- 5 Lee K. McNeely, P.O. Box 463, 2932 Gallatin St., Burlington, KY 41005
- 6 Robert L. Morris, 219 Taylor Dr., Lexington, KY 40505
- 7 COORDINATOR NEEDED
- 8 Fred M. Busroe, Dept. Biol. & Env. Sci., Morehead State Univ., Morehead, KY 40351
- 9 Dr. Pierre N. Allaire, Lees College, Jackson, KY 41339
- 10 Barry Howard, Pine Mt. State Resort Pk., Pineville, KY 40977

### COOPERATION REQUESTED

During the spring and summer of 1984, the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit began a study of Sandhill Cranes at Seney National Wildlife Refuge, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ultimately, results of this work could lead to a cross-fostering program in an effort to establish a population of whooping cranes in the Upper Peninsula. To begin to learn the migration route and pattern of the Seney Sandhill Cranes, we marked 69 cranes with red, white and green leg bands, each  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches high. Each crane carried three to six bands, one to three bands on each leg, and each crane carried all three colors.

We are asking for your cooperation in reporting to us all sightings of these birds; we wish to know the date the bird was sighted, the color and position of bands on each leg, the specific location of the bird when sighted and whether the bird was on the ground or in flight. Send information to: Theodore A. Bookhout — Unit Leader, Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 1735 Neil Avenue, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

### 1984 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

Forms for the Mid-winter Bird Count have been mailed. If you desire to participate as a compiler and have not received the forms, please contact the Editor. All birds recorded must be within a 15-mile diameter circle. Extraordinary sightings must be accompanied with a verification form which will be provided to each compiler.

### BALLARD COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The second Ballard County Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, 28 December 1984. All K.O.S. members are welcome to participate. Interested persons should contact Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. before December 15 for further details at 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222 (502-425-2828).

### IN MEMORIAM

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has recently lost two of its long-time members: Mary Travis (Mrs. Nathaniel M. ) and Thelma Gentry,

both of Madisonville. Mrs. Travis, a retired legal secretary, was a Life Member of K.O.S. and secretary of the Tradewater River Audubon Society. Miss Gentry, a retired school teacher, served as secretary-treasurer of the K.O.S. in 1941-42. Both women attended state meetings quite regularly until recent illnesses prevented them from doing so. They will be missed by all who knew them and sincere sympathy is extended to their families.

### MOVING?

If you are moving or changing address, please notify the Corresponding Secretary-treasurer in order that the mailing of *The Kentucky Warbler* may be carried out expeditiously. Thank you.

## INDEX TO VOLUMES 57-60, 1981-1984

BY BLAINE R. FERRELL

The names of participants in the Mid-winter Bird Counts and seasonal Reports have not been included in this index. The names of species on these counts and those in large tables have not been listed either. Species included in longer articles are not listed unless accompanied by a significant note. The capital letter R indicates a book review.

### AUTHORS

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Allaire, Pierre '81:51-54; '82:58-59; | Nelson, Lee K. '81:31-34           |
| '83:47-48R                            | Nicholson, Charles P. '81:77-79    |
| Altman, Robert '82:38-40; '83:23-26   | Noble, Robert E. '81:63-64         |
| Anderson, Brian D. '81:26-27          | Oddo, Robert S. '84:35-40          |
| Barron, Alan '81:64; '82:75-81        | Palmer-Ball, Brainard, Jr. '81:28; |
| Bierly, Michael Lee '81:25R           | '82:37-38; '82:75-81; '83:19-20;   |
| Brown, Robert '82:58-59; '82:58       | '83:59-60                          |
| Brown, W. H. '81:25                   | Ritchison, Gary '81:40-43;         |
| Davis, Wayne H. '82:58-59;            | '81:79-80; '82:91-92; '83:35;      |
| '82:33-34                             | '84:20; '84:29-31                  |
| Durell, James S. '81:60-62;           | Schmaltz, Jeffrey E. '81:3-11      |
| '82:55-57; '83:45-47; '84:46-48       | Shadowen, Herbert E. '81:8-18;     |
| Elmore, Jackie B. '82:34-35; '83:19   | '81:46-47R; '82:3-13; '83:3-12;    |
| Evans, Marc '84:32                    | '83:47-48R; '83:55-58              |
| Evans, Sherri '83:48; '84:32          | Stamm, Anne L. '81:18-24;          |
| Ferrell, Blaine R. '83:59; '84:3-13   | '81:35-39; '81:54-60; '81:71-75;   |
| Gaby, Shela '83:48                    | '82:13-19; '82:27-32; '82:48-55;   |
| Hobbs, Terry '82:19-20                | '82:55-57; '82:81-86; '83:13-19;   |
| Loetscher, F. W. '81:25               | '83:26-31; '83:39-45; '83:45-47;   |
| Mason, Wayne M. '83:59                | '83:51-54; '84:14-20; '84:23-37;   |
| McComb, William C. '81:63-64;         | '84:40-47; '84:46-48               |
| '81:67-71; '82:23-37; '82:58-59       | Stickley, Allen R., Jr. '83:47     |
| Moriarity, John J. '81:67-71;         | Summerfield, Donald '82:90-91      |
| '82:23-27                             | Twedt, Daniel J. '81:27-28;        |
| Murphy, Ginger A. '82:43-47           | '82:59-60; '84:35-40               |

## BIRDS

- Ani, Groove-billed '82:19-20  
 Avocet, American '83:19-20  
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed '82:59-60  
 Bluebird, Eastern '81:51-54; '83:25  
 Bobolink '81:51-54  
 Bufflehead '82:38-40  
 Cardinal, Northern '83:25; '83:35  
 Chickadee, Carolina '83:25  
 Crow, American '83:33-34  
 Dickcissel '81:51-54  
 Dove, Mourning '81:31-34  
 Dowitcher, Long-billed '82:34-35  
 Duck  
     Black '82:38-40  
     Ring-necked '82:38-40  
     Wood '82:38-40  
 Eagle  
     Bald '81:60-62; '82:55-57;  
         '83:45-47 '84:46-48  
     Golden '81:60-62; '82:55-57;  
         '83:45-47; '84:46-68  
 Egret, Cattle '82:35  
 Finch  
     House '81:64; '83:47  
     Purple '83:35  
 Flicker, Common '83:25  
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed '83:59-60  
 Gallinule, Purple '81:79-80  
 Goldfinch, American '83:25  
 Goose, Canada '82:38-40  
 Grackle, Common '82:91-92  
 Grebe  
     Horned '82:38-40  
     Pied-billed '82:38-40  
 Grosbeak, Blue '84:29-31  
 Hawk, Cooper's '81:25  
 Heron  
     Black-crowned Night '82:35  
     Great Blue '84:31-32  
     Green-backed '82:35  
     Little Blue '82:35  
     Junco, Northern '83:25  
     Kestrel, American '83:35  
     Killdeer '81:51-54  
     Kingfisher '81:25  
     Lark, Horned '81:51-54  
     Loon, Common '83:20  
     Mallard '82:38-40  
     Meadowlark, Eastern '81:51-54  
     Nuthatch, White-breasted '81:40-43;  
         '83:25  
     Osprey '82:40  
     Ovenbird '82:23-27  
     Owl  
         Long-eared '82:58-59  
         Screech '81:63-64; '81:64  
         Short-eared '82:58-59  
     Phoebe, Eastern '81:51-54  
     Pintail '82:38-40  
     Robin, American '82:90-91  
     Sandpiper, Solitary '81:51-54  
     Scaup, Lesser '82:38-40  
     Sparrow  
         Grasshopper '81:51-54  
         House '81:26  
         Savannah '81:51-54  
         Song '83:25  
         Vesper '81:51-54  
     Starling, European '81:27-28;  
         '83:23-26; '84:35-40  
     Swallow  
         Barn '81:51-54  
         Rough-winged '81:51-54  
     Teal, Green-winged '82:38-40  
     Titmouse, Tufted '83:25  
     Vireo, Bell's '81:77-79  
     Vulture, Turkey '83:48  
     Waxwing, Cedar '83:91-92; '83:59  
     Woodpecker  
         Downy '83:25  
         Red-bellied '83:25  
         Red-cockaded '81:3-7; '82:43-47

## LOCALITIES

- Adair County '82:34-35  
 Ballard County '84:31-32  
 Bell County '81:51-54  
 Bowling Green '82:20; '84:35-40  
 Breathitt County '81:51-54;  
 '81:67-71  
 Bucklick '82:23-27  
 Central Kentucky Wildlife  
 Management Area '84:29-31  
 Daniel Boone National Forest  
 '81:3-7; '82:43-47  
 Edmiston Lake '82:38-40  
 Falling Rock '82:23-27  
 Falls of the Ohio '82:37-38  
 Frankfort '82:40  
 Franklin County '81:25  
 Harlan County '81:51-54  
 Henderson County '81:31-34  
 Herrington Lake '82:40  
 Jackson Purchase '82:75-81  
 Jefferson County, KY '81:26-27;  
 '82:90-91  
 Jefferson County, MI '81:63-64  
 Knott County '81:67-71  
 Lake Barkley '82:35  
 LeSeuer County, Minn. '81:40-43  
 Lexington '82:19-20; '83:33-34  
 Little Bayou Creek '81:77-78  
 Livingston County '83:59  
 Logan County '82:59-60  
 Louisville '81:26-27; '81:64; '82:40;  
 '82:58-59; '83:19-20  
 Madison County '81:79-80; '84:20  
 Maywoods '82:38-40  
 McCracken County '81:31-34;  
 '81:77-79  
 Owensboro '82:20  
 Owsley Fork Reservoir '81:79-80  
 Pike County '81:51-54  
 Pulaski County '83:19  
 Richmond, KY '82:91-92  
 Robinson Forest '81:67-71;  
 '82:23-27  
 Snag Ridge Fork '82:23-27  
 Tennessee, Bird Finding in '81:25R  
 Union City '84:20  
 Warren County '81:27-28; '83:47;  
 '83:59

## GENERAL

- The Audubon Society Field Guide  
 '81:46-47R  
 Bald Eagle Survey in Kentucky  
 '81:60-62; '82:55-57; '83:45-47;  
 '84:46-48  
 Birds of North America '81:46-47R  
 Clay, William M.: In Memoriam  
 '83:36  
 Exchanges '82:71  
 A Field Guide to Birds '81:46-47R  
 Libraries, Colleges, Clubs, etc.  
 '82:70  
 Meetings  
 Fall '81:75-77; '82:86-88;  
 '83:55-58  
 Spring '81:44-46; '82:32-34;  
 '83:31-33; '84:27-29  
 Membership Roll '82:61-69  
 Mid-winter Bird Count '81:8-18;  
 '82:3-13; '83:3-12; '84:3-13  
 Nest Card Program '81:48  
 Pieper, Louis: In Memoriam '81:28  
 Rollin, Howard: In Memoriam  
 '84:48  
 Seasonal Reports  
 Winter '81:35-39; '82:27-32;  
 '83:26-31; '84:23-27  
 Spring '81:54-60; '82:48-55;  
 '83:39-45; '84:40-47  
 Summer '81:71-77; '82:81-86;  
 '83:51-54  
 Fall '81:18-24; '82:13-19;  
 '83:13-19; '84:14-20  
 Summerfield, Emma: In Memoriam  
 '84:32  
 Treasurer's Report '81:76-77;  
 '82:88-90; '83:57-58